

**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION SPARKLES WITH  
NIGHT UNDER THE STARS**  
**Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director**



Over 200 LACDMH staff, clients, advocates, Los Angeles County Board representatives, Community Based Organizations and Los Angeles County Mental Health Commissioners gathered at Catalina's Jazz and Supper Club in Hollywood on October 23, 2014, to enjoy the *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Profiles of Hope Recognition Awards*, presented by the L. A. County Mental Health Commission.



The soiree began with a social hour on the patio outside Catalina's at 5:30 PM, and moved inside the jazz club promptly at 6:30, where attendees enjoyed dinner and music provided by the highly acclaimed jazz quartet from the Los Angeles High School of the Performing Arts.



The evening program commenced with new Mental Health Commissioner Lawrence (Larry) J. Lue, who served as Master of Ceremonies. Commissioner Lue introduced Mental Health Commission Chair, Larry Gasco, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., who welcomed the crowd and acknowledged former commissioners Helen Wolff, Delores Huffman and Hayward McNeill, M.P.H., and new commissioners Songhai Armstead and Jo Graham.



Larry Lue kicked off the awards by introducing Dennis Murata, M.S.W., LACDMH Deputy Director, Planning Division, who presented the Award for Outstanding Program to Mark Masaoka on behalf of the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council's (A3PCON) Consumer Leadership Council and Speaker's Bureau.



Next up was Peer Advocate Reba Stevens, who presented the Outstanding Consumer Advocate Award to MC Harris, Community Worker. Reba was greatly assisted by Little MC, the Awardee's son.



LACDMH Legislative Analyst Susan Rajlal introduced Patricia Russell, who accepted the award for Outstanding Family Advocate.



James Jones, M.D., LACDMH Service Area 8, announced that Kedren Community Mental Health Center received the Award for Outstanding Program, which was accepted by John H. Griffith, CEO/President, Kedren Community Mental Health Center.



LACDMH Chief Deputy Director Robin Kay, Ph.D., presented the Exemplary Service Award to Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director.





Commissioner Judy Cooperberg and Executive Director Terry Lewis proudly introduced long-time advocate and Mental Health Commissioner Victoria Sofro, who received the award for Lifetime Achievement.



Reporter Julio Cesar Ortiz accepted the award for Leadership and Social Inclusion on behalf of Univision, Channel 34.



The last award of the evening went to television and film Director/Producer Paris Barclay, who accepted the Personal Legacy Award with his two adopted foster children. Paris was featured in the 2013 *Profiles of Hope* series.



Closing comments were made by Commissioner Leu, who thanked everyone for their participation.



As part of a newer tradition, the Mental Health Commission Awards themselves were re-named the *Isaiah*, to honor the image of “logo man” (or logo person) that former Transition Age Youth (TAY) client, Isaiah Hinnerichs, created for the department in 2010. Isaiah shared his journey of being a foster youth, homeless at 14, depressed and suicidal in the original *Profiles of Hope* series produced by the LACDMH Public Information Office.